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### UM's Four Bear program graduates its inaugural class

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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This release is available electronically on INN (News Net.)

March 26, 1999

**Contact:** Jean Cornwall, University College, (406) 243-2835.

### **UM'S FOUR BEAR PROGRAM GRADUATES ITS INAUGURAL CLASS**

#### **MISSOULA--**

Four Bear, a University of Montana program that guarantees graduation in four years, will graduate its inaugural class of 74 students at UM's Commencement in May.

Begun in summer 1995, Four Bear provides students a contract stating that UM will pick up the extra tab for those who cannot earn a degree within four years. In return, students agree to take 16 to 17 credits each semester and follow an adviser's recommendations in each of eight consecutive semesters.

Four Bear came about in response to parental and student concerns about the spiraling costs of higher education and the increasing number of years students were taking to graduate. Reasons why students spend more than four years to earn a degree vary widely, from financial to motivational. Other students fail to meet graduation requirements in four years, however, because they are closed out of required courses. By signing up for Four Bear, students are assured registration in the courses they need.

The 1999 Four Bear graduating class comprises students in 25 majors. Business has the most with 14 graduates. Psychology comes in next with nine graduates, and biology and elementary education rank third with six graduates each. Numbers of graduates in the other 21

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departments are: English, five; radio-television, four; journalism, forestry, music, and health and human performance, three each; drama, history and sociology, two each; and one each in anthropology, art, communication studies, economics, French, liberal studies, mathematics, medical technology, microbiology, political science, social work and Spanish.

UM President George Dennison will recognize these students' achievement at an April 7 reception.

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TB  
Local, dailies  
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